

Amherst Planning Board
Zoning Subcommittee
MINUTES
April 27, 2011
Town Room, Town Hall

PRESENT: Rob Crowner, Jonathan O’Keeffe, Richard Roznoy; Diana Stein, liaison for the Select Board; Staff members Jonathan Tucker, Christine Brestrup

There was a discussion initiated by Mr. Crowner about the language of the Article which might seem confusing, regarding the minimum square footage and depth of threshold.

Mr. O’Keeffe said that having graphs available would help explain the article at Town Meeting. Mr. O’Keeffe also wondered if in Section 3.121 “any application” seemed to imply that a Filling of Land permit would be required for ALL Special Permit applications.

Mr. Carson moved to recommend Article 32 to the Planning Board. Mr. Crowner seconded. The Subcommittee voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Crowner wondered if it was likely that a member of Town Meeting might move to change the article involving the keeping of backyard chickens. Should the Planning Board be prepared?

Mr. Tucker said that the two parts of the parking amendment are tied together. Paved surface parking is in the first part, second part is how to do that.

The second part of the zoning process for the Village Centers is scheduled for July or August.

Mr. O’Keeffe asked if lawn signs could be put on in North Amherst to alert the residents about the charrette. Mr. Tucker said he would speak with the consultant about that.

Mr. Tucker said he'd asked the Cecil Group if the consultants needed facilitators, but hadn't heard back yet.

Ms. Brestrup asked if lunch and dinner would be provided?

Mr. Tucker said there would be breaks, and that participants could go to nearby places.

Meeting schedule discussed:

May 4, Planning Board meeting 6PM Middle School Library.

June 1: Zoning Subcommittee meeting 5PM, Planning Board meeting 7PM. Amherst College will present its plans for a new Science Center at the Planning Board meeting.

June 15: annual Zoning Forum.

Mr. Tucker reported that funding for a new Town position, for a Code Inspector, would be requested at Town Meeting. And there would be a request in the amount of \$30,000 dollars for supporting the Planning Department, as a cushion if mini-entitlement funds and block grants from the Federal government are cut.

Mr. Tucker said that funding is needed for Healthy Neighborhoods, and that Downtown needs a plan like the Gateway, as does the East Village, and in a year or two, Cushman Village and Gatehouse. There is an ongoing need to implement the Master Plan.

Mr. Crowner asked if there is any movement to create a Master Plan Implementation Committee?

Ms. Stein said that she is not aware of what he was referring to.

Mr. O'Keeffe said that Jim Wald is in the early stages of working on that.

Mr. Roznoy said that if Town Meeting approves a request to fund a transportation study that would be part of the Master Plan implementation.

Mr. Tucker said that such a committee would remind boards and other committees to keep an eye on the Master Plan.

Mr. Crowner asked if the transportation study is approved, will it become part of the Master Plan?

Mr. Tucker said that the Master Plan can refer to the transportation plan. He also said that June and July each year would be a good time for the Planning Board to review zoning amendments and determine how the Master Plan is being implemented.

Mr. Roznoy said that the Transportation Committee would present its plan to the Planning Board, to incorporate into the Master Plan. Public review would be during the Planning Board meeting.

Mr. Walter Wolnik, a member of the public, asked how he could make a couple of suggestions for the plans for Atkins Corner Village Center, and for North Amherst?

Mr. Tucker said that there was a place on the Town website to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce Carson